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(41)

## NEW CLAIMS

5        1. Catalytic converter unit (1) received between a first (2) and a second (3) exhaust section of an exhaust of an internal combustion engine, wherein the first exhaust section (2) is fit for connection to said internal combustion engine, comprising:

- 10        - a catalytic converter housing (8);
- a catalytic converter element (5,6) arranged in the catalytic converter housing;
- a first connecting piece arranged between the first exhaust section (2) and the catalytic converter housing (8); and
- a second connecting piece (10) arranged between the second exhaust section (3) and the catalytic converter housing (8),

20        wherein the first exhaust section (2) comprises at least two channels which are separated by a first separating element (11),

25        the catalytic converter element is divided in longitudinal direction into a number of parts (5,6) corresponding with the number of channels, which parts (5,6) are separated by at least a second separating element (7) aligned relative to the first separating element (11),

30        characterized in that the second separating element (7) extends from the catalytic converter element (5,6) at the side of the first exhaust section (2) into the first connecting piece (9).

35        2. Catalytic converter unit (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the first exhaust section (2) comprises two channels of substantially equal cross-section, that the first separating element (11) comprises a partition and that the second separating element (7) comprises a plate (10) separating two substantially identical parts (5,6) of the catalytic converter element.

3. Catalytic converter unit (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the first exhaust section (2) comprises an internal channel and two external channels of substantially C-shaped cross-section, wherein 5 the cross-section of the C-shaped channels substantially equals double the cross-section of the internal channel, that the second separating element has a corresponding cross-section and that the catalytic converter element (5) is divided into corresponding parts.

10 4. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that a narrow gap is situated between the first separating element (11) and the second separating element (7).

15 5. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, characterized in that the catalytic converter element is divided in transverse direction into at least two sections (5A, 6A; 5B, 6B) separated by an interspace (19) and that the first separating element (11) connects onto the second separating element (7).

20 6. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in ~~any~~ of the foregoing claims, characterized in that the catalytic converter element (5, 6) and the catalytic converter housing (8) are separated by a spacer element (20) extending around the catalytic converter element 25 (5, 6).

7. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the spacer element (20) comprises a mat.

30 8. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in ~~any~~ of the foregoing claims, characterized in that rotation between the axis of the catalytic converter housing (8) and the axis of at least the first exhaust section (2) is possible on an axis extending transversely of one of these axes due to the connection (16) between the first 35 conical connecting piece (9) and the catalytic converter housing (8), wherein the conical connecting piece (9) on the outside of the catalytic converter housing is connected sealingly to the outside of the catalytic

converter housing (8) and wherein a gap is formed between the edge of the catalytic converter housing (8) and the conical connecting piece (9).

9. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 5 8, characterized in that a shoulder (15) is formed on the outside of the catalytic converter housing (8), a sealing ring (16) is arranged against the outside of the shoulder (15), wherein the first conical connecting piece (9) rests against the sealing ring.

10 10. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 8 or 9, characterized in that the first (11) or the second (7) separating element is provided on its edges at the side of the other separating element (7,11) with a thickened portion (18) which mutually separates the 15 channels in a position of the catalytic converter housing (8) relative to the exhaust section (2) which varies from the normal position.

11. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the catalytic converter 20 housing (8) is seam-folded at its ends around the spacer element (20).

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different cylinders or different groups of cylinders. The use of such a separating element prevents destruction of the catalytic converter element in the case of possible temperature stresses. The partitions used with such separated channels could after all crush such a ceramic catalytic converter element.--

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, between the title of the application and the first paragraph, insert the heading  
-Field of the Invention-.

Page 1, between lines 14 and 15, insert the heading -Background of the Invention-.

Page 1, between lines 34 and 35, insert the heading --Brief Description of the Invention--.

Page 4, between lines 4 and 5, insert the heading --Brief Description of the Drawings--.

Page 4, between lines 24 and 25, insert the heading --Detailed Description of the  
Invention--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claim amendments presented herein are based upon claims 1-11 as amended on June 26, 2000 during prosecution of the PCT application, which amended claims are annexed (Amended Sheets) to the International Preliminary Examination Report.

Please amend claims 4-6, 8 and 10 as follows:

Claim 4, line 2, delete "2 or 3,".

Claim 5, line 2, delete "2 or 3,".

Claim 6, lines 1-2, delete "any of the foregoing claims" and insert therefor -claim 1-.

Claim 8, lines 1-2, delete "any of the foregoing claims" and insert therefor -claim 1-.

Claim 10, line 2, delete "or 9".

Insert the following new claims 12-20:

-12. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that a narrow gap is situated between the first separating element (11) and the second separating element (7).

13. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that a narrow gap is situated between the first separating element (11) and the second separating element (7).

14. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the catalytic converter element is divided in transverse direction into at least two sections (5A, 6A; 5B, 6B) separated by an interspace (19) and that the first separating element (11) connects onto the second separating element (7).

15. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the catalytic converter element is divided in transverse direction into at least two sections (5A, 6A; 5B, 6B) separated by an interspace (19) and that the first separating element (11) connects onto the second separating element (7).

16. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the catalytic converter element (5, 6) and the catalytic converter housing (8) are separated by a spacer element (20) extending around the catalytic converter element (5, 6).

17. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the catalytic converter element (5, 6) and the catalytic converter housing (8) are separated by a spacer element (20) extending around the catalytic converter element (5, 6).

18. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that rotation between the axis of the catalytic converter housing (8) and the axis of at least the first exhaust section (2) is possible on an axis extending transversely of one of these axes due to the connection (16) between the first conical connecting piece (9) and the catalytic converter housing (8), wherein the conical connecting piece (9) on the outside of the catalytic converter housing is connected sealingly to the outside of the catalytic converter housing (8) and wherein a gap is formed between the edge of the catalytic converter housing (8) and the conical connecting piece (9).

19. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that rotation between the axis of the catalytic converter housing (8) and the axis of at least the first exhaust section (2) is possible on an axis extending transversely of one of these axes due to the connection (16) between the first conical connecting piece (9) and the catalytic converter

housing (8), wherein the conical connecting piece (9) on the outside of the catalytic converter housing is connected sealingly to the outside of the catalytic converter housing (8) and wherein a gap is formed between the edge of the catalytic converter housing (8) and the conical connecting piece (9).

20. Catalytic converter unit as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the first (11) or the second (7) separating element is provided on its edges at the side of the other separating element (7, 11) with a thickened portion (18) which mutually separates the channels in a position of the catalytic converter housing (8) relative to the exhaust section (2) which varies from the normal position.—

REMARKS

By this amendment, an Abstract has been inserted and multiple dependencies have been eliminated from the claims. Examination on the merits of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure

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